GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2717
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY BY PRIVATE SECTOR
JASWANT SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take any effective steps at public and private level for generation and development of solar energy in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the action being taken by the Government for implementing the solar energy projects in the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a)&(b): The Government has been implementing various schemes for the deployment of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, solar thermal systems and solar power generation all over the country, including the State of Rajasthan. These schemes are being implemented in Rajasthan mainly through the state nodal agency viz. Rajasthan Energy Development Agency now known as the Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RREC). Other organizations involved in implementation of the schemes are the Social Work & Research Centre (SWRC), Tilonia and the World Renewal Spiritual Trust (WRST), Mount Abu, which are Non Governmental Organizations. A few private manufacturers/suppliers and a public sector company namely Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd are also engaged in the installation of solar devices.

To encourage the private sector to set up power generation plants in the State, the Government of Rajasthan has adopted a policy to provide certain incentives to independent power producers (IPPs) proposing power plants based on non-conventional energy sources, including solar energy. The major incentives provided in the policy are:

i) State Electricity Company (SEC) to buy electricity produced by an IPP at the rate of Rs. 3.34per unit (base year 2002-03) with an escalation @ 5% per annum.

ii) SEC to allow wheeling of this electricity on their electricity network at a charge of 2% of the wheeled energy any where in the State.

iii) Allowing IPP to sell electricity to a third party in the High Tension tariff category, in addition to SEC.

iv) Exemption of electricity duty on the electricity sold by an IPP to a third party.

In addition, policy support is being extended by the Central Government to private investors by way of accelerated depreciation, tax holiday, concessional custom duty, exemption from excise duty, etc.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): To ensure large scale utilization of solar energy devices in the country including Rajasthan, Government has been providing incentives to the beneficiaries in the form of soft loans and direct subsidies. Financial support is also being provided to state nodal agencies and some other organizations for promotional activities and establishment of Aditya solar shops. The following are some of the achievements and recent developments in the State of Rajasthan :

i) Around 4,716 solar lanterns, 28,464 home lighting systems, 6,395 solar street lights, 253 solar water pumps, 36,600 solar cookers, and 7,660 sq. m. of collector area for solar water heating systems have been installed till 31.03.2002.

ii) The world`s second largest solar steam cooking system has been functioning at Brahmakumaris Ashram, Taleti, near Mount Abu, since April 1999.

iii) An Aditya Solar Shop has also been established at Brahmakumaris Ashram, Taleti to make solar products available to users and provide repair services.

iv) Solar power plants of 25 kWp each have been installed at the Vidhan Sabha Building and the Secretariat Building in Jaipur.

Smaller plants have been established in the campus of SWRC in Tilonia.

v) A 140 MW Integrated Combined Cycle power project has been sanctioned for installation at Mathania near Jodhpur.The project comprises a solar thermal power plant of 35 MW capacity based on parabolic trough collector technology and a 105 MW combined cycle plant to be run on re-gasified natural gas.